

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 27 and 30-35 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein. Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 27 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Holder (U.S. Patent No. 2002/019824). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. A Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 has been filed concurrently with this Reply. This Declaration establishes that the subject matter recited in the claims was reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Holder, April 11, 2001, and thus, Holder is not prior art to the subject claims. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. Portions of Exhibit A that are unnecessary to establish that the claimed subject matter was reduced to practice prior to April 11, 2001 have been redacted.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited. In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063. Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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